

VSE 2022 Annual Conference Evaluation Report

VSE's 2022 Annual Conference entitled "The Age of Resilience" took place on May 11th and 12th as a hybrid event with in-person participation in Kappara, Malta, hosted by Victim Support Malta, and online through Zoom. Plenary sessions and panel discussions were livestreamed, while the workshops were in-person only.

The conference was attended by 147 people in person, along with 20 online participants. The event hosted twenty-six speakers from diverse fields and covered the following main topics over the two days:

1. Conflict, intolerance & social instability and their impact on victims of crime in unstable times
2. Individual, social and structural resilience in victim support context
3. How victim support can build resilience in a time of crisis
4. Impact on victim support in times of Covid-19
5. Empowerment of specific group of victims in times of Covid-19

The conference also offered a broad range of workshops on both days on topics such as building resilience in victim support workers as well as victims; implementing restorative justice practices; and various training and support programs and models. In total, eleven workshops were held over the two conference days.

After the conference, participants were asked to fill out an online evaluation form to share their feedback regarding the conference. The feedback form was shared as a QR code and as a link with the registered participants. The survey received 21 responses. 71.4% of respondents were VSE Member organisations. Most of the respondents identified as victim support professionals (71.4%, or 15 respondents), followed by one representative of each of the following categories: competent authorities; policy makers; general public; NGO working towards better legislation; a mental health NGO; and a training institute.

The feedback received from the participants of the Annual Conference was overwhelmingly positive. 100% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “The conference was well organised”.

The content of the conference was interesting to 95.2% of participants who answered the survey. The same proportion of respondents found the speakers to be knowledgeable and their presentations professional. 85.7% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “Participation and interaction were encouraged”. Similarly, 85.7% of respondents agreed that the content would be useful in their work. The weakest agreement was found with the statement “Time management during the conference was good”: only 13 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with it, while 6 answered ‘neutral’, and 3 disagreed or strongly disagreed.

When asked to rate the individual sessions of the conference, participants’ response was largely positive, with the majority of answers being a 4 or a 5 on a 5-point scale. (See Figures 1 and 2).

Please rate your satisfaction with Session 2: Individual, social and structural resilience in victim support context

21 responses

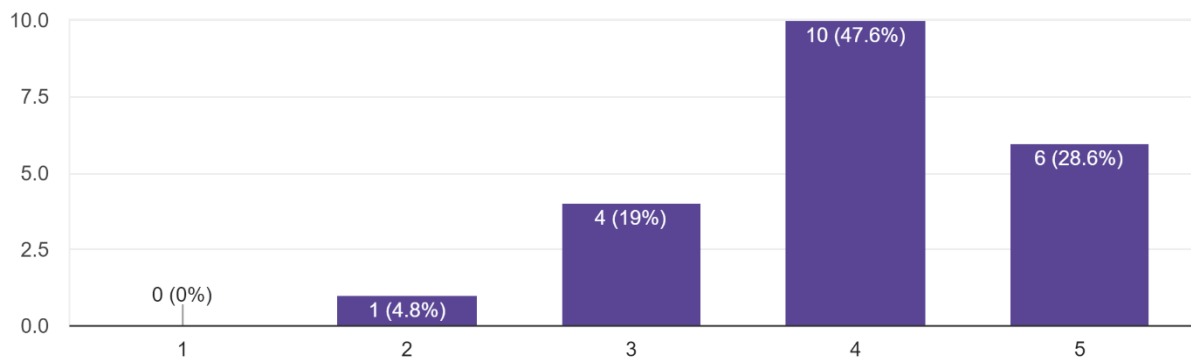


Figure 1: Session satisfaction, Session 2, Day 1

Please rate your satisfaction with Session 1: Impact on victim support in times of Covid-19

21 responses

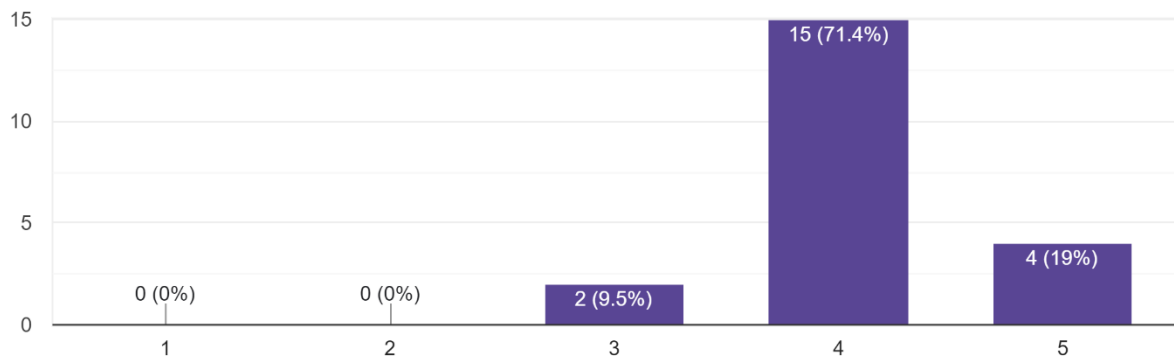


Figure 2: Session satisfaction, Session 1, Day 2

Workshop attendance was well distributed (See Figure 3), and the satisfaction rates were high, too.

Which workshop did you attend on Day 1?

21 responses



Figure 3: Workshop attendance on Day 1

The workshops on both days were rated positively, with the majority of answers being a 4 or a 5 on a 5-point scale for Day 1 as well as for Day 2. Specifically, on Day 1, participants of various workshops pointed out that they were informative, practical, easy to follow, and had “lively

discussion and space for exchange on the subject matter". On Day 2, participants praised hands-on and interactive exercises, innovative research, and knowledgeable presenters.

When asked which aspects of the conference they enjoyed the most, the respondents praised the ability to meet in person again to connect and network with other professionals face-to-face. Many respondents pointed out the quality and diversity of the many speakers at the conference and the topics which were covered, as well as the good organization and coordination of the event.

When asked what could have been improved about the event, the usual concerns of the time keeping and a desire for more interaction were mentioned. One participant wrote,

"For the next conference, I would really recommend to have less speakers and leave more time for discussion. And tell workshop facilitators to not pack the workshop with presentations: 20 minutes max, rest for discussion. Otherwise, keep going!"

Finally, participants also expressed their desire for more breaks throughout the intensive conference days.

Overall, the conference received largely positive feedback. The participants were excited to see each other in person, meet the speakers, and continue their fruitful interactions in the future. The respondents thanked the VSE team as well as Victim Support Malta for organising the event.